

REACHING OUT IN FAITH
By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) sponsored a congregational mental health training and outreach event at the South Coast Botanical Gardens on Friday January 4, 2013. Over 80 community agencies, faith organizations, mental health workers, law enforcement and school personnel gathered at the gardens in the Palos Verdes Peninsula, organized by LACDMH Adult System of Care, Service Areas 4 and 8.



Ms. Youngsook Kim-Sasaki, District Chief, SA 8, welcomed the crowd. Ed Vidaurri, District Chief, SA 4, made opening remarks and made a presentation on what constitutes the need for mental health clinical services and how the process works within the county. Ed highlighted the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) statistic that states one in five people

experience a mental health disorder, commenting, “We are the mentally ill—mentally ill are us.”



Dr. Steven Goodwin spoke about community outreach and engagement strategies. Everyone who attended the event got a chance to introduce themselves and say a few words.

